

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A programmable controller for controlling a controlled apparatus by pulse output, comprising:

- a pulse generating section for outputting a pulse string having a set cycle;
- a pulse dividing section for dividing the pulse string output from said pulse generating section at a predetermined dividing ratio and for outputting an interruption request signal having a cycle which is n times as great as the cycle of the pulse string

where n is a positive integer; and

a central processing unit for executing an interruption processing in response to the interruption request signal output from said pulse dividing section so as to directly control the output of said pulse generating section,

wherein the pulse dividing section determines the interruption request signal based on the dividing of the pulse string output.

2. (original) The programmable controller according to claim 1, wherein

said central processing unit sets a dividing ratio to be used for division of the pulse dividing section, controls the number of pulses output from said pulse generating section, and sets the dividing ratio to be equal to the number of pulses which have not been output when the number of the pulses which are output is smaller than $2n$.

3. (original) The programmable controller according to claim 1, wherein
said central processing unit changes one dividing ratio to be used for the division of said
pulse dividing section depending on the cycle of the pulse string output from said pulse
generating section.